

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 FBOE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05
SS-15 /040 W
-----020865 142201Z /66
R 142134Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0154

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12399

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, AFSP, OGEN
SUBJECT: USOECD PROVISIONAL OFFICES FOLLOWING MARCH 1
FIRE

REF: PARIS 8159

SUMMARY: GLAD TO REPORT MISSION NOW ESTABLISHED IN
CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED QUARTERS WITH ACCEPTABLE WORKING
CONDITIONS TO BE OCCUPIED DURING RECONSTRUCTION OF
PREMISES EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL OCTOBER 1. GOOD
POSSIBILITY THAT MAJOR PORTION OF REPLACEMENT COSTS OF
STRUCTURE, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EMPLOYEES'
PERSONAL PROPERTY WILL BE REPLACED AT NO COST TO USG.
PLANNING TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF RECONSTRUCTION
OPPORTUNITY TO MODERNIZE, INCLUDING MAXIMAL COMPLIANCE
WITH FIRE-REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS, MORE EFFICIENT
UTILIZATION OF SPACE, AND BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS.
WILL SUBMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS
WITH JUSTIFICATIONS AS THEY OCCUR. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING FIRE, MISSION'S FIRST EFFORTS WERE TO
LOCATE QUARTERS LARGE ENOUGH TO KEEP MISSION INTACT AND
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IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO OECD. IT TOOK NEARLY ONE MONTH
TO EXHAUST POSSIBILITIES. IN VIEW OF APPROACHING
MINISTERIAL, REQUIRING CLOSE CONTACT WITH OECD
SECRETARIAT AND OTHER DELEGATIONS, MISSION DECIDED TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPACE OFFERED WITHIN OECD, WHICH
ALLOWED US TO KEEP MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF OUR PEOPLE
IN VARIOUS PARTS OF MAIN BUILDING AND REMAINING THIRD

NEARBY (FIVE-MINUTE WALK).

2. COMMUNICATIONS NOW ADEQUATE AND WILL BE FULLY RESTORED NEXT WEEK, WITH MOST OFFICERS HAVING TELEPHONE LINES AND EMBASSY EXTENSIONS WITH SAME NUMBERS AS PRIOR TO FIRE. MISSION C&R FACILITIES WILL REMAIN LOCATED AT EMBASSY UNTIL OCTOBER, USING FREQUENT COURIER SERVICE AS NEEDED.

3. SINCE FIRE-DAMAGED QUARTERS REQUIRE TOTAL DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF ALL EXISTING PARTITIONS, WIRING, FLOOR COVERING, ETC., TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT COMPLETE MODERNIZATION, TO INCLUDE FIRE-REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS, MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF SPACE, BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS, ETC. TO DO THIS THOROUGHLY, WE MUST BE READY TO TELL OECD IMMEDIATELY WHAT STRUCTURAL CHANGES, PARTICULARLY INCLUDING RELOCATION OF ELECTRICAL WIRING AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR REWIRING, WILL BE REQUIRED. CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN OECD ARCHITECT AND OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL BE HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND BY ALBRECHT (EUR/RPE), AND WE WILL NEED A DETERMINATION FROM DEPARTMENT ON POINTS MENTIONED THEREIN, INCLUDING SPRINKLERS, ELECTRICAL WIRING, ETC.

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OFFICE LAYOUT AND DESIGN SPECIALIST USED BY JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE BRUSSELS HAS SURVEYED PREMISES AND APPROXIMATE NEEDS AND INDICATES POSSIBILITY THAT MODERNIZATION COULD RECAPTURE UP TO 25 PERCENT OF SPACE BY USING FREE-STANDING SPACE DIVIDERS FOR ADMIN AND SUPPORT STAFF AND STILL MEET SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. IF THIS PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED AND SPACE SAVING REALIZED, PART OF THE SAVING MAY BE USED TO RELOCATE SECURITY AND TRADE CONTROLS UNIT AT MISSION, POSSIBLY ALLOWING SOME SAVINGS IN PERSONNEL AND CERTAINLY IMPROVING OFFICE COVERAGE, COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPERVISION.

WE REMAIN CONFIDENT LARGE PORTION OF RECONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION COSTS WILL NOT REQUIRE USG FUNDING. IMMEDIATE EXPENSES INCURRED IN PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED MOVES WILL BE JUSTIFIED SEPARATELY TO EUR/EX.

4. OECD SECRETARIAT CONTINUES TO COOPERATE AND HELP TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, WITHOUT WHICH A DIFFICULT SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. SUGGEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPARTMENT PREPARE A LETTER OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP FOR HIS HELP AND THAT OF ALL OF HIS STAFF.
SALZMAN

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